

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINT EC

SUBJECT: CEOSL SECRETARY GENERAL CHAVEZ COMMENTS ON NOV. 13
GENERAL STRIKE

1. SUMMARY: IN NOV. 20 CONVERSATION WITH LABOFF, CEOSL (ECUADOREAN CONFEDERATION OF FREE LABOR ORGANIZATION) JOSE CHAVEZ EXPRESSED SATISFACTION ABOUT THE WAY THE NOV. 13 NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE WAS CONDUCTED BUT UNHAPPINESS ABOUT THE GOE'S RESPONSE TO DATE. HE SAID THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT FORTHCOMING ANOTHER STRIKE MIGHT BE NECESSARY. CHAVEZ STATED THAT LABMIN AGUIRRE HAD CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT ACCEPTING WHICHEVER OF THE TWO COMPETING CEOSL EXECUTIVE BOARDS WAS RECOGNIZED BY ORIT AND BELIEVES THAT IT IS IN THE GOE'S INTEREST TO KEEP CEOSL DIVIDED. END SUMMARY.

2. LABOFF CALLEY CEOSL SECRETARY GENERAL JOSE CHAVEZ AT CONFEDERATION HEADQUARTERS NOV. 20. CHAVEZ IS VERY PLEASED ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF THE NOV. 13 GENERAL STRIKE, PARTICULARLY IN ITS LACK OF VIOLENCE. HE SAID THAT VIRTUALLY ALL AFFILIATES OF THE THREE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS (CEOSL, CTE, AND CEDOC) STAYED OF THE JOB AND ADDED THAT THE STRIKE WAS DOUBLY EFFECTIVE BECAUSE THERE WAS LITTLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ON THE DAY OF THE STRIKE. CHAVEZ SAID THAT THERE WERE MANY GROUPS OF STUDENTS AT THE VARIOUS BUS TERMINALS REQUESTING DRIVERS TO OBSERVE THE STRIKE AND MOST S OWNERS APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT IT WAS
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BETTER TO ADHERE TO THE STRIKE THAN TO RUN THE RISK OFHD

DAMAGE TO THE
IR UNITS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE STRIKE ITSELF WENT WELL, CHAVEZ IS DIS-APPOINTED WITH THE GOE'S RESPONSE. HE SAID THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO/LABOR/GOVERNMENT TALKS FOLLOWING THE STRIKE AND NO INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONSIDER ACTIONS ON THE UNION DEMANDS. IF NO ACTION IS FORTHCOMING, CHAVEZ SAID THAT ANOTHER STRIKE, WHICH WILL NOT BE SO PEACEFUL AS THE FIRST, MIGHT BE NECESSARY. THE COMMUNIST-COMINATED AND PRO-GOVERNMENT CTE, HOWEVER, IS QUITE RELIEVED THAT THE STRIKE RAME AND WENT WITHOUT DAMAGING ITS RELAPSONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND CHAVEZ FEELS CERTAIN THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE CTE'S PARTICIPATION IN ANOTHER GENERAL STRIKE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. TURNING TO THE ANTI-STRIKE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WAGED BY LUIS VILLACRES AND HIS COMPETING CEOSL EXWNUTIVE COUNCIL, CHAVEZ SAID THAT HE HAD UNCONFIRMED INFORMATION THAT VILLACRES RECEIVED 160,000 SUCRES (ABOUT \$6,165 US) TO OPPOSE THE STRIKE; 80,000 TO PAY FOR NEWSPAPER ADS AND 80, 000 FOR HIMSELF. VILLACRES, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION LISTED IN HIS DECLARATION MANY UNIONS THAT INTENDED TO PARTICIPATE AND HAS ALIENATED A PORTION OF HIS FOLLOWING. IN GUAYAQUIL, CHAVEZ LOYALIST JULIO CHANG (PRESIDENT OF CEOSL'S GUAYAS CONFEDERATION) REGARDS THE STRIKE AS A VICTORY OVER VILLACRES SINCE THE GREAT MAJORITY OF CEOSL UNIONS PARTICIPATED.

5. CHAVEZ SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY LABMIN AGUIRRE THAT THE LATTER NO LONGER INTENDS TO RECOGNIZE WHICHEVER OF THE COMPETING CEOSL GROUPS (CHAVEZ AND VILPACRES IS RECOGNIZED BY ORIT, BUT RATHER WILL MAKE HIS OWN DETERMINATION. CHAVEZ EXPECTS NO DECISION SOON, BELIEVING THAT IT IS LK THE GOE'S INTEREST TO MAINTAIN CEOSL DIVIDED. HE SAID THAT WITH THE CTE UUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT AND WITH CEDOC CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS IN THE CAMPESINO SECTOR, CEOSL REPRESENTS THE STRONGEST LABOR THREAT. AND, A DIVIDED CEOSL IS LESS THREATENING THAN A UNIFIED ONE.

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6. CHAVEZ ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN, AND PERHAPS MORE JEALOUSY, AT THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED HHE CTE AND THE CEDOC BY THEIR FOREIGN SPONSORS. HE VIEWS THE AID PROVIDED BY AIFLD AS BEING INADEQUATE TO THE CONFEDERATION NEEDS AND PLANS TO SEEK HELP FROM ADDITIONAL SOURCES, INCLUDING THE (WEST GERNAM) EBERT FOUNDATION.

7. COMMENT: IT IS AT THIS POINT UNCERTAIN IF THE GOE
DID IN FACT FINANCE THE VILLACRES ANTI-STRIKE CAMPAIGN.
IN PURE TRADE UNION TERMS IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT VILLACRES'
ACTION REDUCED HIS SUP BRT AND FOLLOWING. HOWEVER, CHAVEZ'
VIEW THAT THE GOE HAS AN INTEREST IN MAINTAINING CEOSL
DIVIDED AND PLANS NO IMMEDIATE ACTION TO RESOLVE THE
DISPUTE SEEMS LOGICAL.
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